

RED DEER



Halil was a brave young man living in a village near the Toroslar. He was addicted to hunting deers and a very talented hunter. When he went for hunting, at home his mother and his very beautiful fiancée named Zeynep were so curious about him and his mother never loved his hunting because according to her beliefs, if a man kills a living, God punishes him cruelly. They couldn't prevent him from deer hunting.

However, Halil was never so lucky during his stay in the mountains especially if he met a Red Deer. Whenever he met it, he never killed a deer. This animal was very different. It climbed a rock and waited for him as if it were challenging Halil. He crawled silently, approached, took the aim at the Red Deer and fired! But the Red Deer disappeared and appeared on another rock at the same time. Halil always chased it but never caught it. He returned home without any deers.

One day, while hunting Halil met the Red Deer again. It had a beautiful baby deer this time. He approached them silently and shot the baby deer. The Red Deer disappeared at sight. The deer on his shoulder, Halil returned to his village. The time passed. Halil didn't go to the Toroslar to hunt deers but he missed it too much. In the end, it was time to marry Zeynep. At the wedding night, Halil heard a voice as if a deer was calling him. He couldn't control himself, took his pistol by saying to Zeynep "I will be back soon." And ran away. The voice was getting farther and farther. He ran after it. The moment he reached the Toroslar, Halil realized that the Red Deer was on a rock near the edge of a cliff. He shot and the animal dropped on the rock. Halil went crazy. He approached the deer. When he picked it up, the Red Deer stood up and kicked him down to the cliff.

It is said that when the villagers came at the edge of that cliff, Zeynep heard his moans. The villagers decided to pull him up with a rope, but the voice were gone soon. Zeynep, with a great sorrow, looked at her wedding dress and down the cliff. Then she cried, "The life is meaningless without you." and jumped down. Since then, it's been said that the people hear a voice coming from the rocks where Halil died. It sounds like a song as if Halil was swearing not to hunt a deer any more.

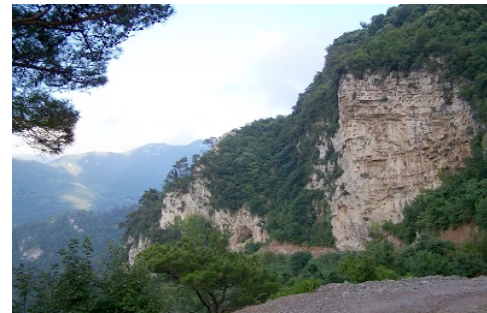
The End

PLACES CONNECTED TO THE LEGEND

“Red Deer”



The legend takes place in the south of Turkey, The Toroslar.



The Taurus Mountains (The Toroslar) are a mountain complex in southern Turkey, dividing the Mediterranean coastal region of southern Turkey from the central Anatolian Plateau. The system extends along a curve from Lake Eğirdir in the west to the upper reaches of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers in the east. It is a part of the Alpide belt in Eurasia.

